

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:DBLAKEMORE:LKD
APPROVED BY EA/K: MR. RICH
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O 032349Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: (INVESTIGATIONS)

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE RE KIM DONG-JO TESTIMONY

1. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE ON THE SUBJECT ISSUE WAS
PREPARED FOR USE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S REGULAR NOON BRIEFING
AUGUST 3.

QUOTE:

Q. THIS MORNING THE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED
THAT IT HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF
KOREA THAT KIM DONG-JO WOULD SUPPLY NEW INFORMATION AND
THAT IT HAD DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE ROK OFFER. HAS THE
DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED IN THIS DECISION?

A. THE DECISION TO ACCEPT THE KOREAN OFFER WAS MADE BY
THE COMMITTEE. WE HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE COMMITTEE
AND IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IN
OBTAINING THESE ASSURANCES. WE ARE PLEASED THAT A
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PROCESS IS UNDERWAY WHICH WE ARE HOPEFUL WILL BE FULLY
RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE TO RESOLVE THE REMAINING UNANSWERED QUESTIONS
REGARDING OUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

Q. HOW WILL THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BE HANDLED?
A. I DO NOT WISH TO GO BEYOND THE STATEMENT MADE THIS

MORNING BY CHAIRMAN FLYNT, WHICH WAS BASED ON THE DIA-
LOGUE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED:
"TO ACCEPT THE OFFER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND WILL
SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNMENT QUESTIONS SO THAT IT MAY OBTAIN
ANSWERS FROM MR. KIM."

Q. HOW SOON WILL THIS BE DONE?

A. AS THE COMMITTEE POINTED OUT THIS MORNING, EVERY
EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO PROCEED QUICKLY. THE QUESTIONS
WILL COME FROM THE COMMITTEE. THEREFORE YOU SHOULD SEEK
A MORE PRECISE ANSWER FROM THEM.

Q. WHAT ABOUT MR. JAWORSKI'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY CRITI-
CIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE?

A. I CANNOT INTERPRET MR. JAWORSKI'S COMMENTS FOR YOU.
AS I HAVE OFTEN SAID IN THE PAST, HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT
HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING APPROPRIATE TO
RESOLVE THIS IMPORTANT PROBLEM.

Q. THIS MORNING THERE WERE COMMENTS IN THE COMMITTEE
WHICH SUGGESTED THAT MR. JAWORSKI MAY HAVE BEEN ASKED TO
STEP BACK AT THIS TIME BECAUSE HIS PRESENCE WAS UNHELPFUL
TO THE DIALOGUE WITH THE KOREANS. IS THIS TRUE?

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A. AT NO TIME HAS THE DEPARTMENT SUGGESTED THAT MR.
JAWORSKI SHOULD STEP ASIDE.

UNQUOTE.

2. THE QUESTION DID NOT COME UP AND THE GUIDANCE WAS
NOT USED.

VANCE

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NNN

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